

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 27, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

The recent announcement by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and non-OPEC allies, which includes Russia, to aggressively curtail oil production will exacerbate the pain felt by consumers across our country who are already hard hit by high fuel prices. This reduction is aimed at boosting oil prices, which will reward Russia who was a prime driver of increased prices to begin with. We are calling on your Administration to lead an international effort to forcefully respond to OPEC's egregious decision by offsetting OPEC's supply cut with an even larger strategic reduction in demand for fuel.

Working with our allies and other impacted nations, we can advance a series of smart policies that together will more than offset the supply cuts announced by OPEC. A unified action that decreases demand for oil and accelerates the global transition away from petroleum-based transportation fuels will weaken OPEC, lower prices, and create a strong disincentive for them to arbitrarily slash production in the future.

Following the illegal Russian invasion of Ukraine, oil markets were disrupted, leading to spiking gas prices. Under your leadership the United States led a global effort to release fuel from strategic petroleum reserves. Your efforts sent a strong signal to the markets, which in-turn contributed to the 99-day reduction in gasoline prices across our country. A coordinated international commitment to cutting oil demand will send an even stronger signal to the markets. An international response will ensure that OPEC understands that a temporary supply cut in oil production will be met with permanent demand destruction for their economic lifeblood.

We urge you to advance policies that will reduce demand for oil without harming Americans or disadvantaged people around the world who are struggling with higher prices. These policies can include, but are not limited to:

1. Directing governments to speed the transition to electric vehicles (EV) and non-fossil fuel transit options and fleets.
2. Incentivizing shipping companies to transition trucks used for short-haul and regional routes to EV trucks.
3. Encouraging teleworking an additional day a week where possible.
4. Reducing fares for public transportation, and supporting EV rideshare where public transit is not available.
5. Calling on businesses to provide discounts to employees who can document the use of public transportation or bicycles to work.
6. Calling on countries that subsidize fuel to transition to other direct forms of economic support to stop the unintentional incentive to use fuel inefficiently.
7. Calling on governments to transition faster to electrification, especially in areas that are reliant on oil-based heating.

As part of this international effort, your Administration and governments around the world can encourage people to regularly check their tire pressure, which can save an additional 5 percent in performance, and drive less aggressively, which can save nearly 30 percent at highway speeds or even 40 percent in stop-and-go traffic. We urge you to work with our allies and other countries hurt by OPEC's decision to send a forceful and enduring message that will calm the oil markets and forever reduce the power of OPEC.

Sincerely,



Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress




Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



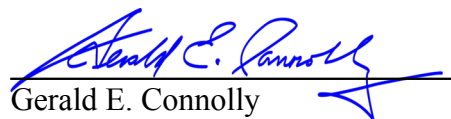
Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress



Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



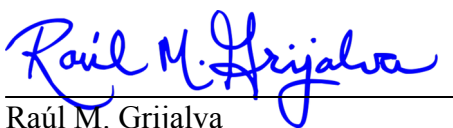
Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick  
Member of Congress



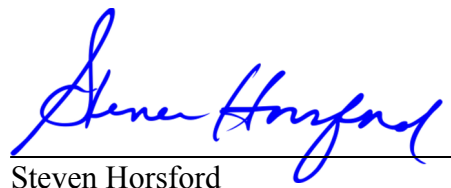
Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



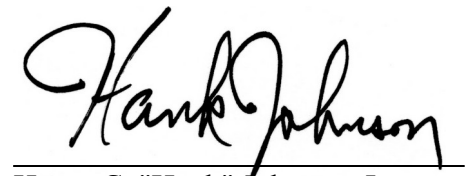
Katie Porter  
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



Steven Horsford  
Member of Congress

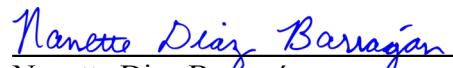


Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



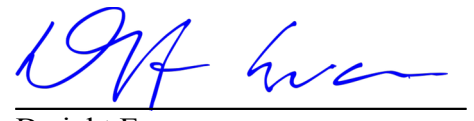
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Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



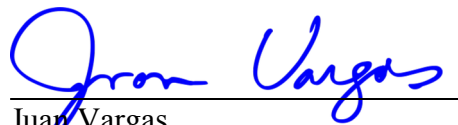
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Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



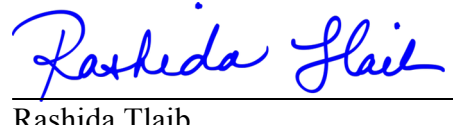
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Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



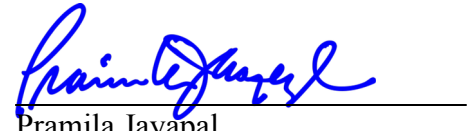
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Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



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Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress



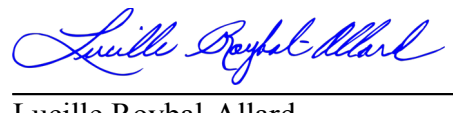
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Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



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Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



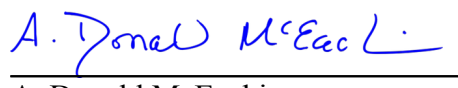
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Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Member of Congress



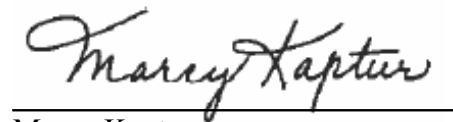
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Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress




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A. Donald McEachin  
Member of Congress




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Marcy Kaptur  
Member of Congress




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Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.  
Member of Congress




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Gwen S. Moore  
Member of Congress



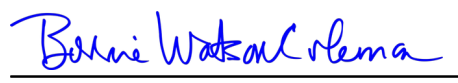
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Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress




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Mondaire Jones  
Member of Congress



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Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress



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Michael F. Q. San Nicolas  
Member of Congress